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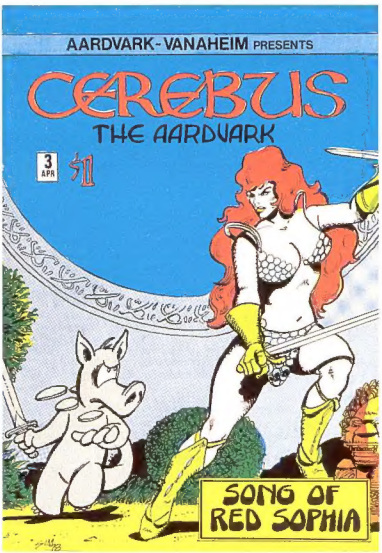
CEREBUS

bi-weekly



reprinting Cerebus number three (1978) in its entirety

December 30, 1988

CEREBUS
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CIRCULATION
28,000

DAVE SIM
President

KAREN McKIEL
Administrator

published by Aardvark-Vanaheim, Box 1674, Stn. C., Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4R2

The inside front cover of Cerebus 1 to 70 featured a 'Note from the Publisher' written by Deni Loubert. Dave Sim and Deni Loubert were married from October 6, 1978 to August 20, 1983. Deni Loubert currently resides in Long Beach, California and is the owner and publisher of Renegade Press, 2705 East 7th St., Long Beach, CA., 90804.

CEREBUS

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

This is discouraging to say, but I really have very little to talk about in this issue. The work has gone smoothly, orders have come in in very nice amounts, and all in all nothing out of the ordinary has happened between the last issue and this except (of course) that this issue has gotten done.

There was no historic struggle for ideas, as Dave had wanted to do a story where Cerebus was with a female since the inception of this comic. How he would handle it was easy once the second issue was finished, and we knew Cerebus a bit better.

To be truthful, I've had little to do with Cerebus this issue. My own job, at a printing company (working camera), keeps me busy as I am quite interested in printing and photography. But luckily I never fall behind in the adventures of Cerebus, as Dave and I are engaged (you know, to be married, like) and we live together. So it's almost like reading the daily funnies. Dave does a page at night (that's what I get for finding myself a nighthawk) and leaves it out on the breakfast table for me the next morning. Who could ask for better service?

For someone who had nothing to say, I'm doing all right. But I know that you will enjoy this issue's story much more than my ramblings, so please, don't let me hold you back.

I can promise you'll be back for more.

Deni Loubert

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CEREBUS
bi-weekly

December 30, 1988

The introduction below was written for **Swords of Cerebus**, six volumes of which were published reprinting Cerebus 1 to 25. It was written in 1981.

CEREBUS NO. 3 (April, May, 1978)

"We'll put out three issues and if it doesn't go so good, we can always back out and I'll have three sample issues of a comic book when I look for work."

By the time the third issue came out, we had pretty much committed ourselves to the task of putting out a bi-monthly comic. I had decided when I finished issue #2 that I would do a Red Sonja parody in issue #3. This was largely because of Frank Thorne.

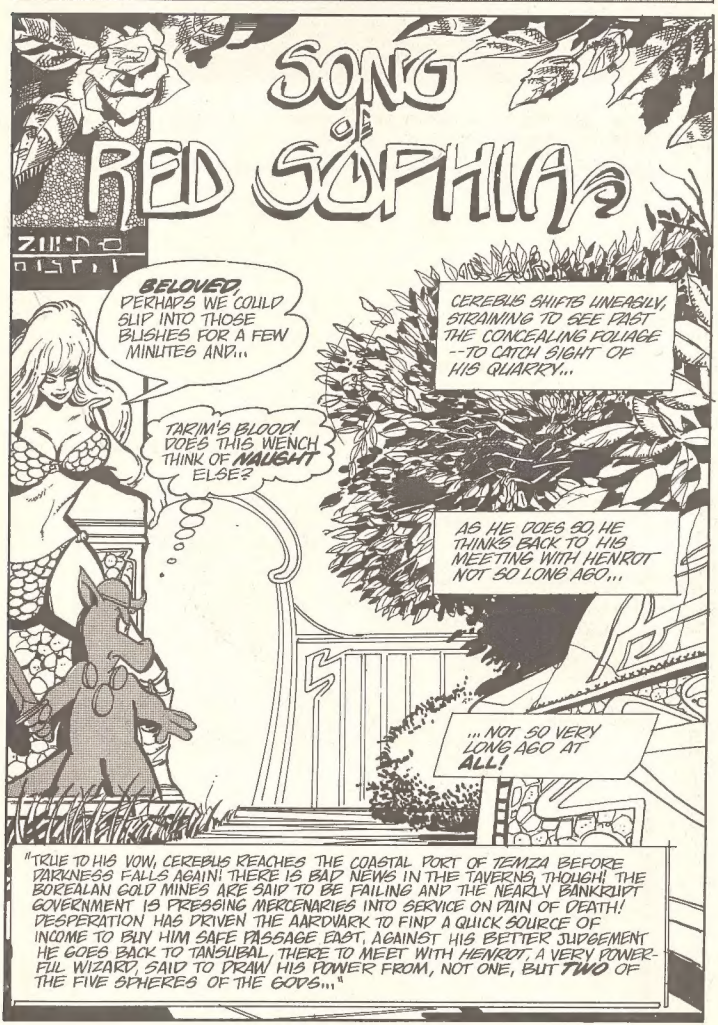
A lot of you may not know Frank very well. I don't know Frank Thorne very well myself. When I was a fan Frank sent me an original of his Dr. Guy Bennet strip. Frank also used to write really regular. Drop a dear Frank letter in the mailbox and a week later you can count on a handwritten Frank Thorne reply. Write a dear Dave letter and mail it and you can count on a handwritten Dave Sim reply sometime after hell freezes over.

A struggling professional **needs** Frank Thorne - be they elf or aardvark. I mean, Frank loves everything ... without qualification or inhibition. Phone the guy to talk and he laughs. He laughs when you say hello, he laughs when you ask him if he's rich yet. He laughs when you tell him you haven't got money for groceries and your mother needs an operation (this last part is made up of course). Frank sends you sketches. Bizarre little Pantone and flair jobbies. I got a sketch when I sent him issue #1. I got a sketch when I sent him #3. I got a cover for #7 just for sending him xeroxes of the first ten pages. I got another sketch when I won the Alley Award. The most recent sketch was for the Ghita parody in #19. I still have to do Son of Tomahawk, Mighty Sampson and Dr. Guy Bennet (who?). By the end of the decade, I'll be able to wallpaper the cat's room with Frank Thorne artwork.

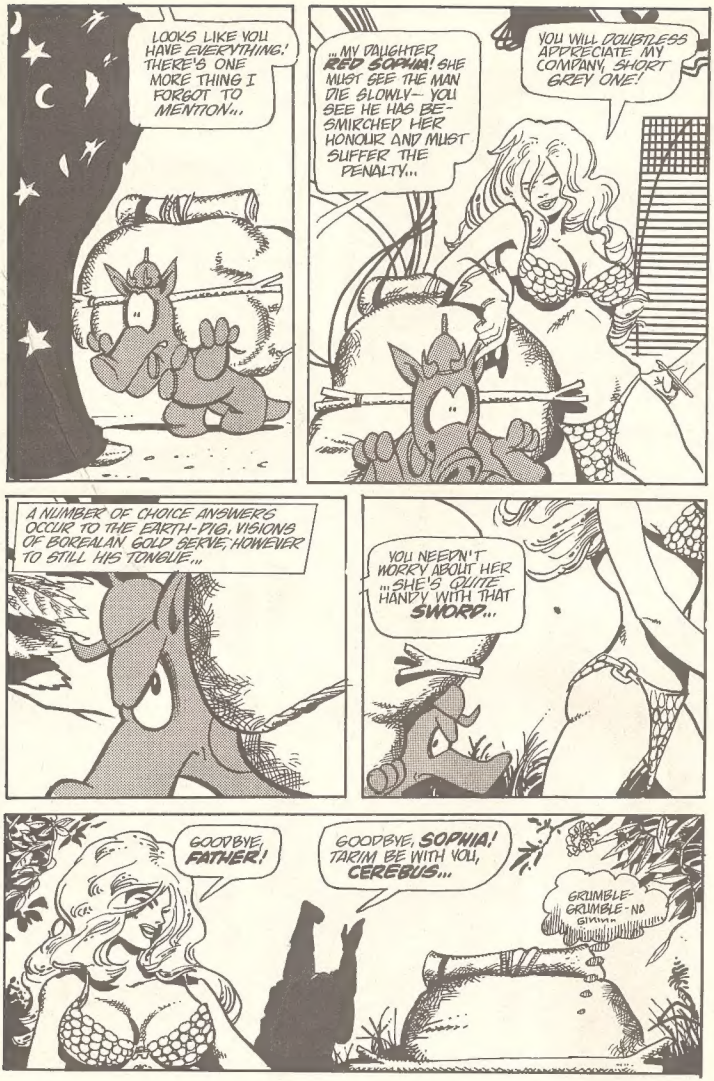
Of course I ran into problems at the time. I was trying to do Frank Thorne's Sonja, inked like Barry Smith does, only more hair and aw nuts it doesn't look like anything.

The granola page was the first time I cracked myself up over one of my own jokes, page two's backgrounds were copied out of a very slim volume of Art Nouveau objay dar, and yes, it is true, the wizard was drawn so he looked like Frank.

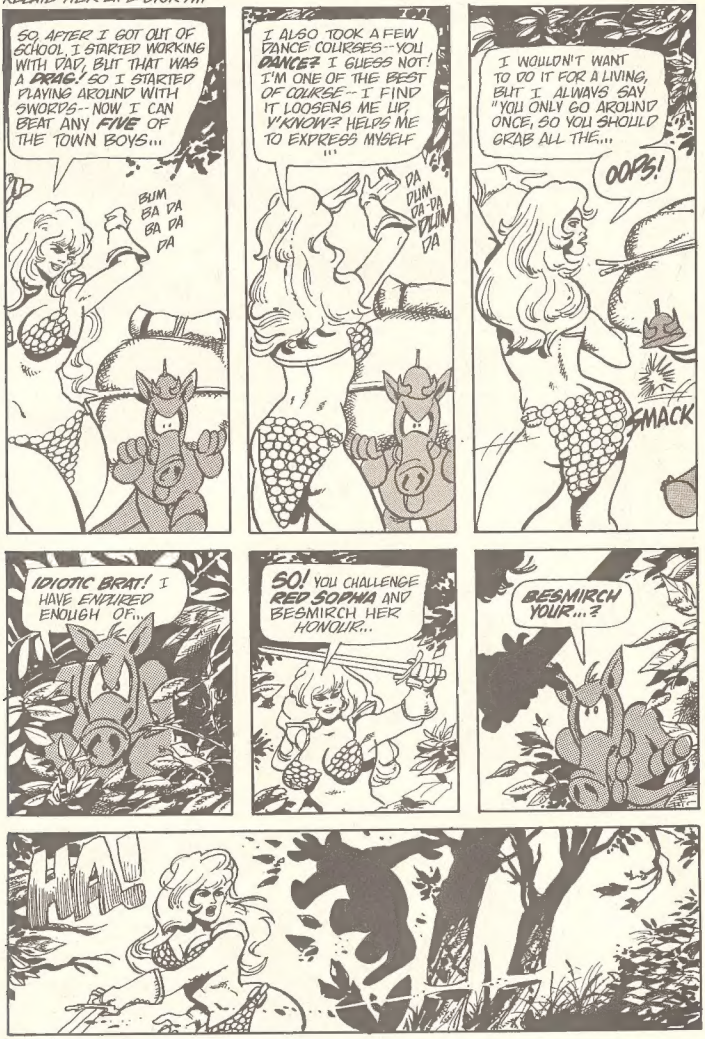
I wonder if I'll get a sketch for this introduction?

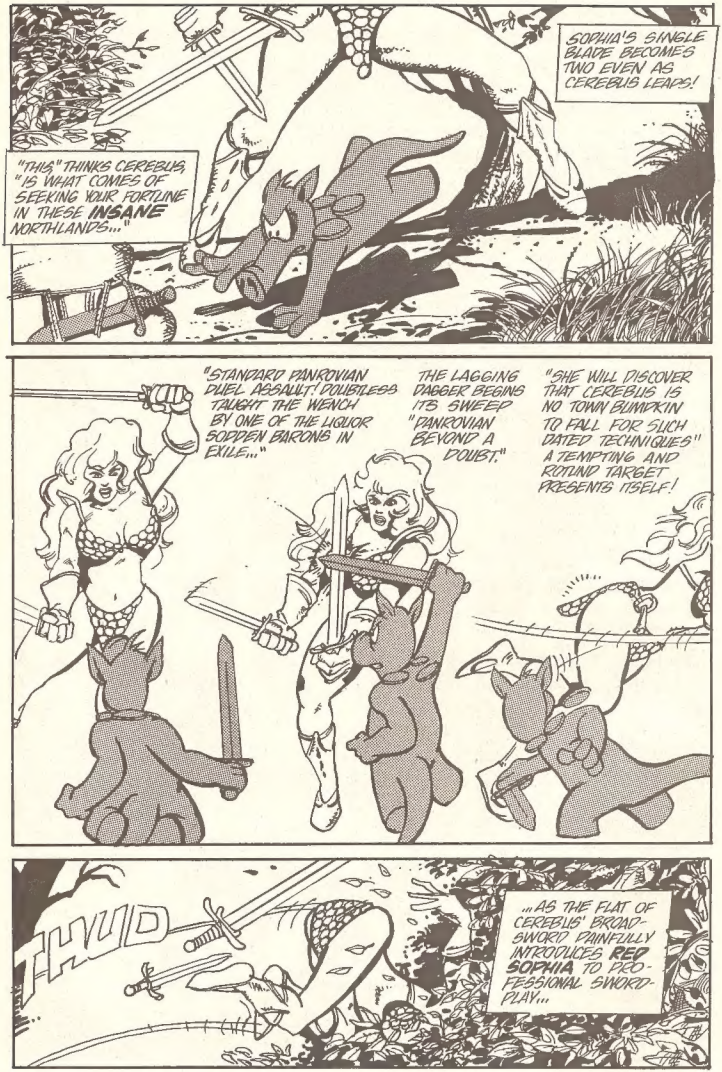

SONG of RED SOPHIA
ZUIDO
DISTRICT
BELOVED, PERHAPS WE COULD SLIP INTO THOSE BUSHES FOR A FEW MINUTES AND...
TARIM'S BLOOD! DOES THIS WENCH THINK OF NAUGHT ELSE?
CEREBUS SHIFTS UNEASILY, STRAINING TO SEE PAST THE CONCEALING FOLIAGE --TO CATCH SIGHT OF HIS QUARRY...
AS HE DOES SO, HE THINKS BACK TO HIS MEETING WITH HENROT NOT SO LONG AGO...
... NOT SO VERY LONG AGO AT ALL!
"TRUE TO HIS VOW, CEREBUS REACHES THE COASTAL PORT OF TEMZA BEFORE DARKNESS FALLS AGAIN! THERE IS BAD NEWS IN THE TAVERNS, THOUGH! THE BOREALAN GOLD MINES ARE SAID TO BE FAILING AND THE NEARLY BANKRUPT GOVERNMENT IS PRESSING MERCENARIES INTO SERVICE ON PAIN OF DEATH! DESPERATION HAS DRIVEN THE AARDVARK TO FIND A QUICK SOURCE OF INCOME TO BUY HIM SAFE PASSAGE EAST, AGAINST HIS BETTER JUDGEMENT HE GOES BACK TO TANSUBAL, THERE TO MEET WITH HENROT, A VERY POWERFUL WIZARD, SAID TO DRAW HIS POWER FROM, NOT ONE, BUT TWO OF THE FIVE SPHERES OF THE GODS..."

TO COME TO THE POINT, MY FRIEND, I AM NEED OF AN ASSASSIN...!
BOREALA IS FILLED WITH WARRIORS -- WHY DO YOU CHOOSE CEREBUS?
I NEED SOMEONE WITH STRENGTH, BUT I AM ALSO PAYING FOR SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE IN THE WAYS OF TORTURE...
THE INTENDED VICTIM MUST SUFFER BEFORE HIS DEATH...
AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK CEREBUS IS THIS "SOMEONE"?
MY HERBS, MY CRYSTAL -- ALL INDICATE YOU ARE A MAN--ER--AARDVARK OF YOUR WORD...
IF YOU PROMISE TO MAKE HIM SUFFER, YOUR PAYMENT WILL BE A SACK OF BOREALAN GOLD...
"ASSASSIN" THE WORD IS AN UGLY ONE TO THE EARTH-PIG, BUT A QUICK ESCAPE FROM BOREALA IS IMPERATIVE!
VERY WELL...I'LL DO IT...!


LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING! THERE'S ONE MORE THING I FORGOT TO MENTION...
...MY DAUGHTER RED SOPHIA! SHE MUST SEE THE MAN DIE SLOWLY— YOU SEE HE HAS BE-SMIRCHED HER HONOUR AND MUST SUFFER THE PENALTY...
YOU WILL DOUBTLESS APPRECIATE MY COMPANY, SHORT GREY ONE!
A NUMBER OF CHOICE ANSWERS OCCUR TO THE EARTH-PIG, VISIONS OF BOREALAN GOLD SERVE, HOWEVER TO STILL HIS TONGUE...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT HER ...SHE'S QUITE HANDY WITH THAT SWORD...
GOODBYE, FATHER!
GOODBYE, SOPHIA! TARIM BE WITH YOU, CEREBUS...
GRUMBLE-GRUMBLE-NO GIMM-

FOR THE EARTH-BIG, THE ENSUING YARDS PASS LIKE MILES AS SOPHIA BEGINS TO RELATE HER LIFE STORY...

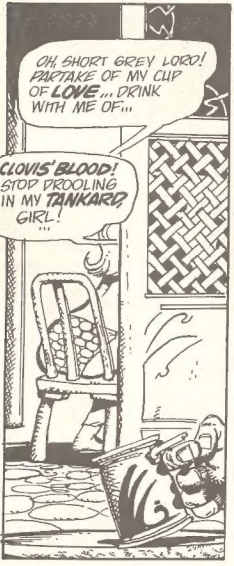

SO, AFTER I GOT OUT OF SCHOOL, I STARTED WORKING WITH DAD, BUT THAT WAS A DRAG! SO I STARTED PLAYING AROUND WITH SWORDS-- NOW I CAN BEAT ANY FIVE OF THE TOWN BOYS...
BUM BA DA BA DA DA
I ALSO TOOK A FEW DANCE COURSES-- YOU, DANCE? I GUESS NOT! I'M ONE OF THE BEST OF COURSE-- I FIND IT LOOSENS ME UP, Y'KNOW? HELPS ME TO EXPRESS MYSELF ...
DA DUM DA-DA DUM DA
I WOULDN'T WANT TO DO IT FOR A LIVING, BUT I ALWAYS SAY "YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE, SO YOU SHOULD GRAB ALL THE...
OOPS!
SMACK
IDIOTIC BRAT! I HAVE ENDURED ENOUGH OF...
SO! YOU CHALLENGE RED SOPHIA AND BESMIRCH HER HONOUR...
BESMIRCH YOUR...?
HA!


"THIS," THINKS CEREBLUS, "IS WHAT COMES OF SEEKING YOUR FORTUNE IN THESE **INSANE** NORTHLANDS..."
SOPHIA'S SINGLE BLADE BECOMES TWO EVEN AS CEREBLUS LEAPS!
"STANDARD PANROVIAN DUEL ASSAULT! DOUBTLESS TAUGHT THE WENCH BY ONE OF THE LIQUOR SODDEN BARONS IN EXILE..."
THE LAGGING DAGGER BEGINS ITS SWEEP
"PANROVIAN BEYOND A DOUBT."
"SHE WILL DISCOVER THAT CEREBLUS IS NO TOWN BUMPKIN TO FALL FOR SUCH DATED TECHNIQUES" A TEMPTING AND ROTUND TARGET PRESENTS ITSELF!
THUD
"...AS THE FLAT OF CEREBLUS' BROADSWORD PAINFULLY INTRODUCES **RED SOPHIA** TO PROFESSIONAL SWORDPLAY..."

CEREBUS WHIRLS AND BRACES FOR A RENEWED ATTACK! HE MUST DEFEAT THE WENCH WITHOUT HARMING HER...
WITH LUCK, THEY WILL BE ON THEIR WAY ONCE MORE WITHIN THE HOUR...
THERE IS A RUSTLING IN THE BUSHES AND, GRADUALLY, HER PLENTIFUL FORM RISES UP-- BUT HER EXPRESSION BETRAYS NO BATTLE-LUST! ONLY... WHAT?
OHHHH! MY LORD CEREBUS!
I HAVE SWORN A VOW THAT ANY MAN WHO DEFEATS ME IN BATTLE SHALL POSSESS ME...
I AM YOURS TO COMMAND!
LET ME DO YOUR BIDDING, OH SHORT GREY MASTER...
MY BODY IS YOURS!
DO MY BIDDING EH?
CEREBUS IS MOST PLEASED!

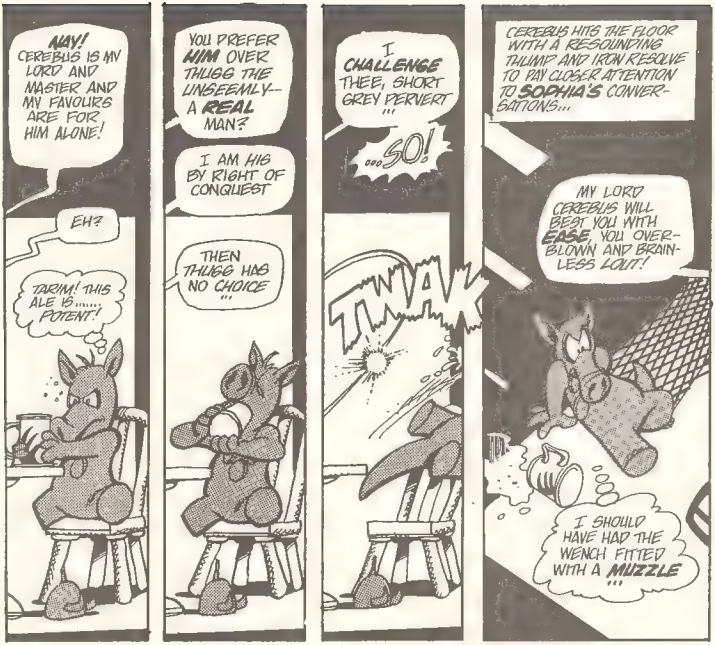
YOU CAN CARRY THE SLIPPLIES!

IT IS JUST BEFORE SUNSET THAT CERBERUS AND SOPHIA REACH THE TOP OF A GRASSY HILL -- A WELCOME SIGHT!
PERHAPS WE WON'T NEED YOUR FATHER'S SLIPPLIES...
TARIM! I COULD USE AN ALE!


OH, SHORT GREY LORD! PARTAKE OF MY CUP OF LOVE... DRINK WITH ME OF...
CLOVIS' BLOOD! STOP DROOLING IN MY TANKARD GIRL! ...

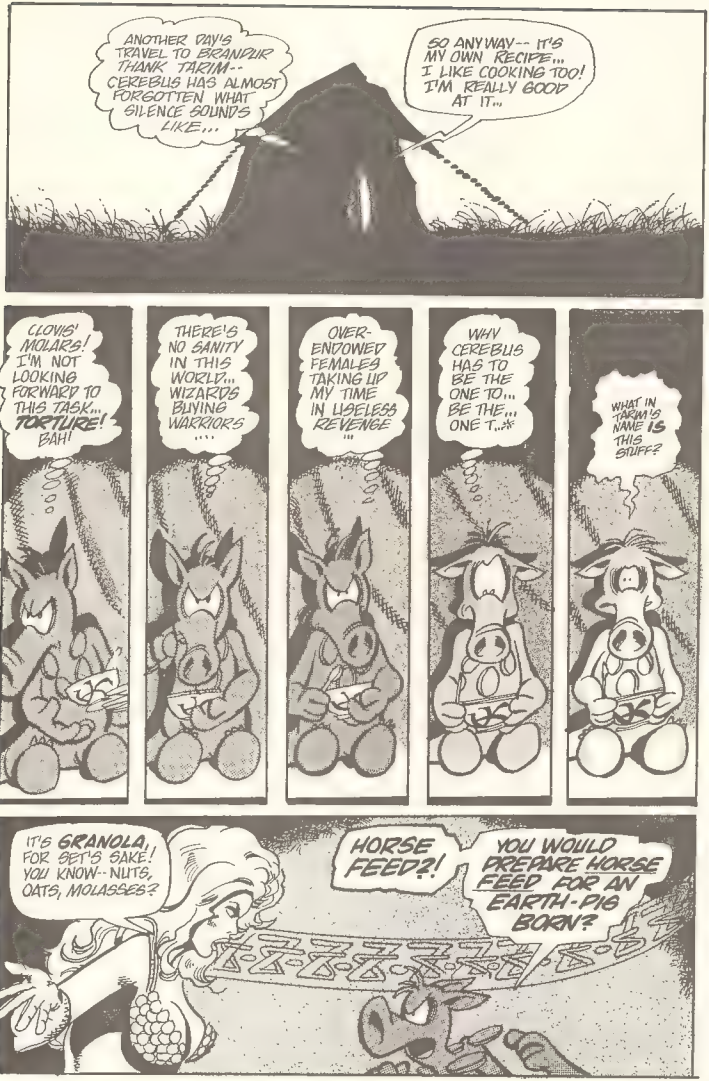
SOPHIA'S AMPLE DIMENSIONS COME UNDER CAREFUL SCRUTINY IN THE DINGY TAVERN...
ASHTOTH TAKE ME! A COMELY WENCH REDUCED TO BEGGING FOR A BED-MATE!...
...METHINKS THUGG THE UNSEEMLY WILL TAKE A HAND, HERE

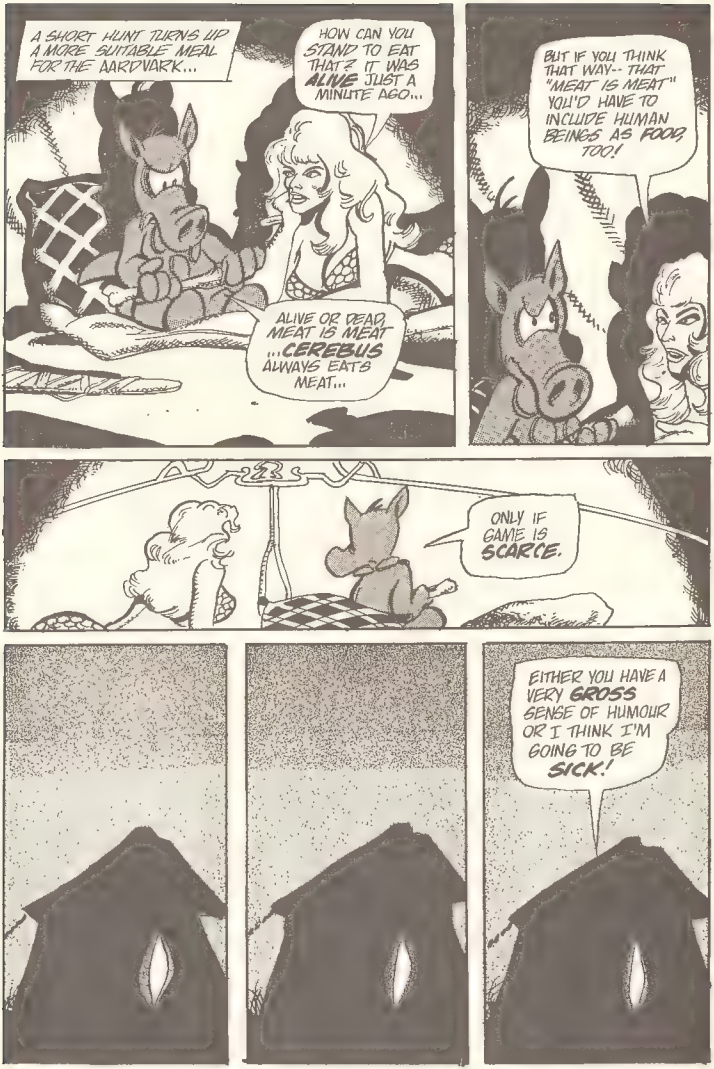
FORGET THE GREY BEAST, RED HAIR -- JOIN THUGG FOR A TANKARD AT HIS TABLE...

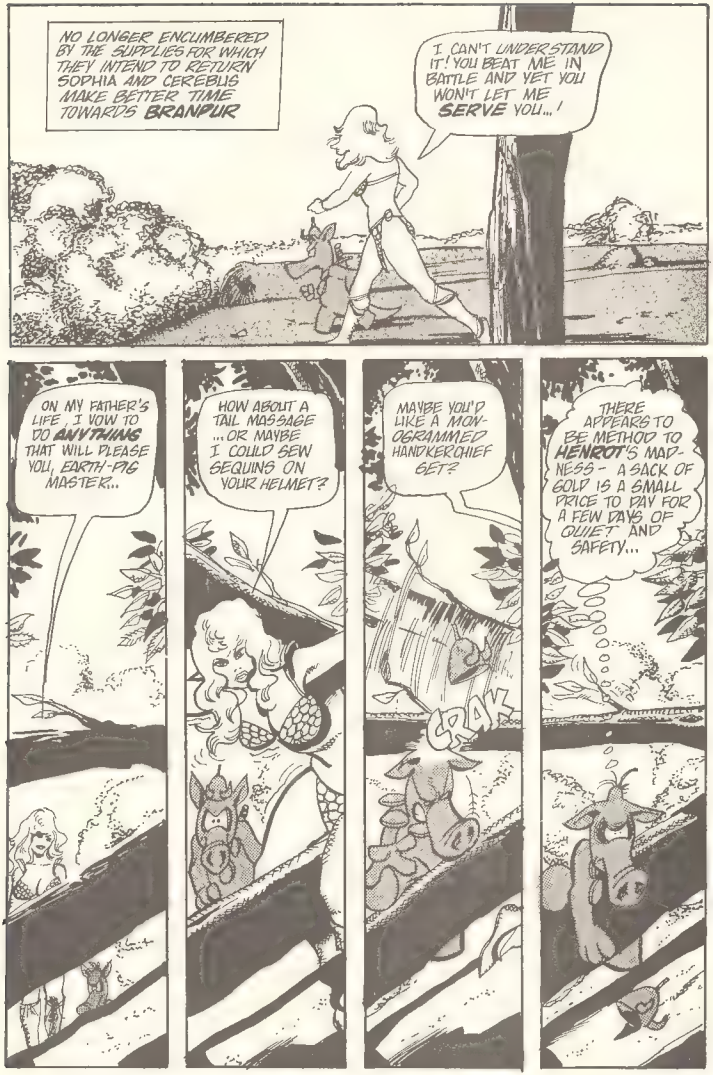

NAY! CEREBUS IS MY LORD AND MASTER AND MY FAVOURS ARE FOR HIM ALONE!
EH?
TARIM! THIS ALE IS..... POTENT!
YOU PREFER HIM OVER THUGG THE LINSEEMLY-- A REAL MAN?
I AM HIS BY RIGHT OF CONQUEST
THEN THUGG HAS NO CHOICE ...
I CHALLENGE THEE, SHORT GREY PERVERT ...
...SO!
TWAK
CEREBUS HITS THE FLOOR WITH A RESOUNDING THUMP AND IRON RESOLVE TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO SOPHIA'S CONVERSATIONS...
MY LORD CEREBUS WILL BEAT YOU WITH EASE, YOU OVER-BLOWN AND BRAINLESS LOUT!
I SHOULD HAVE HAD THE WENCH FITTED WITH A MUZZLE ...
MY HONOUR HAS BEEN BESMIRCHED AND CEREBUS WILL AVENGE ME...
TARIM'S TEETH! DOES NO ONE GO TO TAVERNS FOR A QUIET DRINK ANYMORE?
PRAY NOW TO YOUR WORTHLESS SNOW GODS, SCUM ...YOUR TIME IS NIGH!

TARIM! I HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING ANY-ONE IN THE WENCH'S NAME!
MY SLOW-WITTED FRIEND STRIKES ME AS UNLIKELY TO LISTEN TO REASON...
MAYHAP IT IS TIME FOR CEREBUS TO DEMONSTRATE THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO FELL A BEARDED TREE
FORTUNATELY, THUGG'S SIZE MAKES HIM EXTREMELY PONDEROUS AND SLOW-MOVING! AS WELL, HIS CONTEMPT FOR THOSE SHORTER THAN HIMSELF MAKES HIM AN IDEAL FOE FOR THE EARTH PIG!
CEREBUS SPOTS AN OPENING, AND...
THOK
WAIT! WE CAN'T LEAVE YET...! MY HONOUR HAS BEEN BESMIRCHED! YOU HAVE TO...

WILL YOU STOP?! MY HONOUR IS AT STAKE HERE! YOU'VE GOT TO BACK IN AND..
PERHAPS IF YOUR HONOUR IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE, YOU SHOULD AVENGE IT YOURSELF!
TARIM TAKE ME FOR A VAGRANT! SHE'S GOING BACK IN...
NOW I'LL HAVE TO GO IN AND SAVE HER FROM.....
THUMP
SLASH
CRAK
GASH
PUNT
SKRATCH
AAGH
CLOVIS' BEADS! CEREBUS BEGINS TO THINK A BAND OF PANDVIAN DUELING INSTRUCTORS COULD CAPTURE THIS FOUL COUNTRY...
COME ON, DEAR HEART! I STILL HAVE TO PITCH THE TENT AND MAKE DINNER...


ANOTHER DAY'S TRAVEL TO BRANDLIR THANK TARIM-- CEREBLUS HAS ALMOST FORGOTTEN WHAT SILENCE SOUNDS LIKE...
SO ANYWAY-- IT'S MY OWN RECIPE... I LIKE COOKING TOO! I'M REALLY GOOD AT IT...
CLOVIS' MOLARS! I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS TASK... TORTURE! BAH!
THERE'S NO SANITY IN THIS WORLD... WIZARDS BUYING WARRIORS ...
OVER-ENDOWED FEMALES TAKING UP MY TIME IN USELESS REVENGE ...
WHY CEREBLUS HAS TO BE THE ONE TO... BE THE... ONE T..*
WHAT IN TARIM'S NAME IS THIS STUFF?
IT'S GRANOLA, FOR SET'S SAKE! YOU KNOW-- NUTS, OATS, MOLASSES?
HORSE FEED?!
YOU WOULD PREPARE HORSE FEED FOR AN EARTH-PIG BORN?

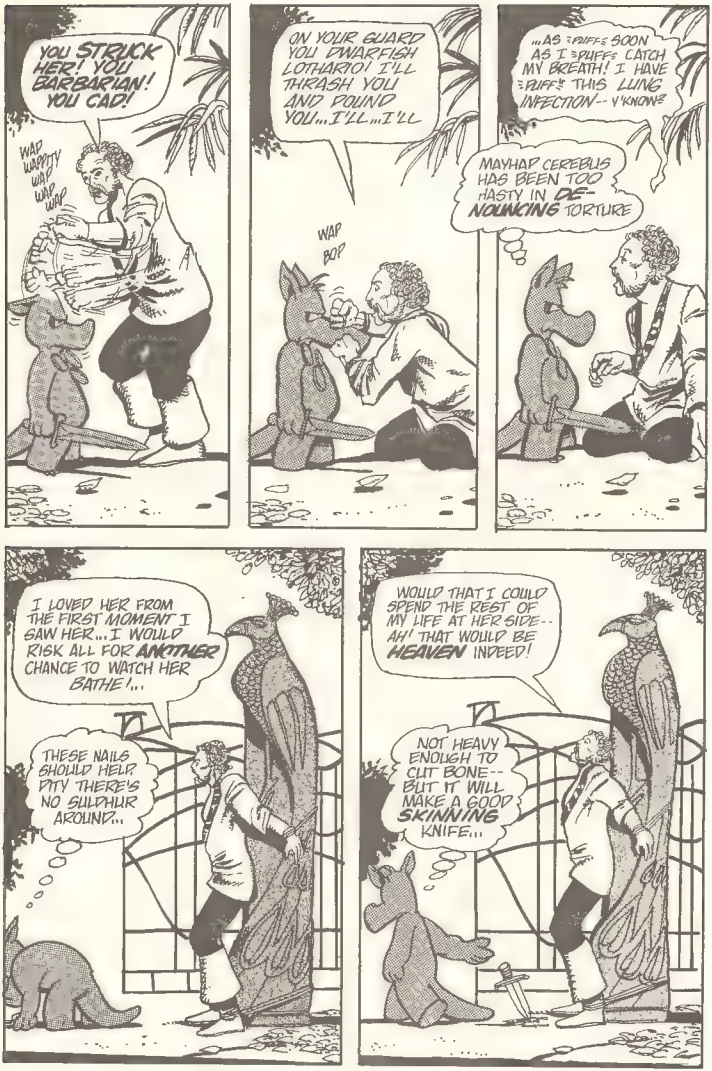

A SHORT HUNT TURNS UP A MORE SUITABLE MEAL FOR THE AARDVARK...
HOW CAN YOU STAND TO EAT THAT? IT WAS ALIVE JUST A MINUTE AGO...
ALIVE OR DEAD, MEAT IS MEAT ...CEREBUS ALWAYS EATS MEAT...
BUT IF YOU THINK THAT WAY-- THAT "MEAT IS MEAT" YOU'D HAVE TO INCLUDE HUMAN BEINGS AS FOOD, TOO!
ONLY IF GAME IS SCARCE.
EITHER YOU HAVE A VERY GROSS SENSE OF HUMOUR OR I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!

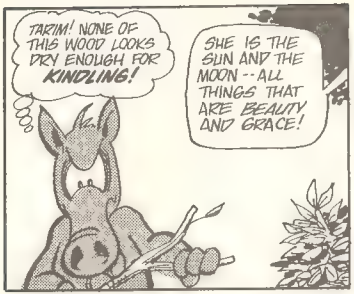

NO LONGER ENCUMBERED BY THE SUPPLIES FOR WHICH THEY INTEND TO RETURN SOPHIA AND CERBELIS MAKE BETTER TIME TOWARDS BRANPUR
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! YOU BEAT ME IN BATTLE AND YET YOU WON'T LET ME SERVE YOU...!
ON MY FATHER'S LIFE, I VOW TO DO ANYTHING THAT WILL PLEASE YOU, EARTH-PIG MASTER...
HOW ABOUT A TAIL MASSAGE ...OR MAYBE I COULD SEW SEQUINS ON YOUR HELMET?
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE A MONOGRAMMED HANDKERCHIEF SET?
CRAK
THERE APPEARS TO BE METHOD TO HENROT'S MADNESS - A SACK OF GOLD IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR A FEW DAYS OF QUIET AND SAFETY...

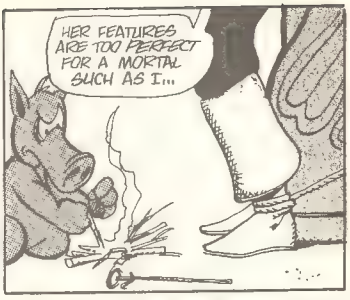
NO--REALLY--
I KNOW A LOT OF GOOD TRICKS ...WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TO LIE DOWN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO....
THE GATE IS JUST AT THE TOP OF THIS HILL...
CRUK
THIK
I'M INTO HAND-HOLDING MYSELF! I'M PRETTY GOOD AT IT, TOO--
OOOPS--
WATCH OUT....
...BELOW.
OR WE COULD TRY GURANNIAN TONGIL KISSING ...IT'S A SPECIALTY OF MINE
NOW THAT I'VE MOVED THE FAKE BRANCHES, THE EAST GATE SHOULD BE RIGHT HERE ....
AHA!
BINGO!
MAYBE I'M JUST NOT INTO THE SAME THINGS YOU ARE...
...WHAT'S YOUR SIGN ANYWAY?

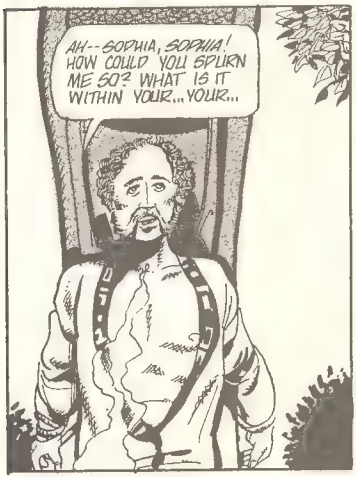
NOT SO VERY LONG AGO IN SOME WAYS ... BUT DECADES AGO IN OTHERS!...
LOOKS LIKE DIRT ON YOUR SNOUT-- YOU--EH--WANT ME TO LICK IT OFF?
NEARBY, A WELL-DRESSED YOUNG MAN RECOGNIZES A FAMILIAR VOICE...
...AND AN EVEN MORE FAMILIAR LEWD PROPOSAL...
SOPHIA!
TANES FERAS!...
...YOU!
CLOVIS' EARS!
SOPHIA! WHAT DO YOU... AAAAAK!
YOU HAVE BESMIRCHED MY HONOUR, FERAS...!
TARIM! IF CEREBUS WAITS MUCH LONGER THERE WILL BE NAUGHT BUT HAMBURGER LEFT TO TORTURE...

LET GO OF MY ARM, BELOVED... I'LL SPLIT THE FOP FROM STEM TO...
THAT FOP IS WORTH A SACK OF GOLD TO CEREBUS!
STAND BACK!... OR-BY-CLOVIS! ...
NOW! CEREBUS BEGINS TO SUSPECT YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER...
PERHAPS YOU CAN TELL ME YOUR VERSION OF THINGS, MY PERFUMED FRIEND!
WELL-- IT ALL BEGAN WHEN...
LIAR! HE'S LYING, BELOVED! HE IS!
KILL HIM KILL HIM KILL HIM KILL HIM KILL HIM KILL HIM
WAP! WAP! WAP! WAP!
YOU JUST WAIT UNTIL CEREBUS GETS DONE WITH YOU, YOU ROGUE!
THUK
YOU... YOU... STRUCK HER?
AVE! THIS IS THE FIRST MOMENT'S PEACE CEREBUS HAS HAD IN TWO DAYS!


YOU STRUCK HER! YOU BARBARIAN! YOU CAD!
WAP WAPPY WAP WAP WAP
ON YOUR GUARD YOU DWARFISH LOTHARIO! I'LL THRASH YOU AND POUND YOU... I'LL... I'LL
WAP BOP
...AS =PUFF= SOON AS I =PUFF= CATCH MY BREATH! I HAVE =PUFF= THIS LUNG INFECTION-- Y'KNOW?
MAYHAP CEREBUS HAS BEEN TOO HASTY IN DE-NOUNCING TORTURE
I LOVED HER FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW HER... I WOULD RISK ALL FOR ANOTHER CHANCE TO WATCH HER BATHE!...
THESE NAILS SHOULD HELP. PITY THERE'S NO SULPHUR AROUND...
WOULD THAT I COULD SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE AT HER SIDE-- AH! THAT WOULD BE HEAVEN INDEED!
NOT HEAVY ENOUGH TO CUT BONE-- BUT IT WILL MAKE A GOOD SKINNING KNIFE...

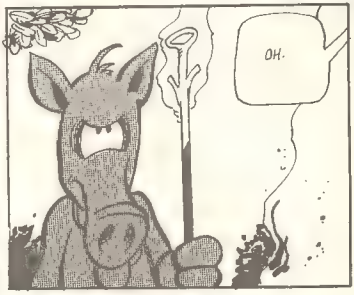

TARIM! NONE OF THIS WOOD LOOKS DRY ENOUGH FOR KINDLING!
SHE IS THE SUN AND THE MOON -- ALL THINGS THAT ARE BEAUTY AND GRACE!

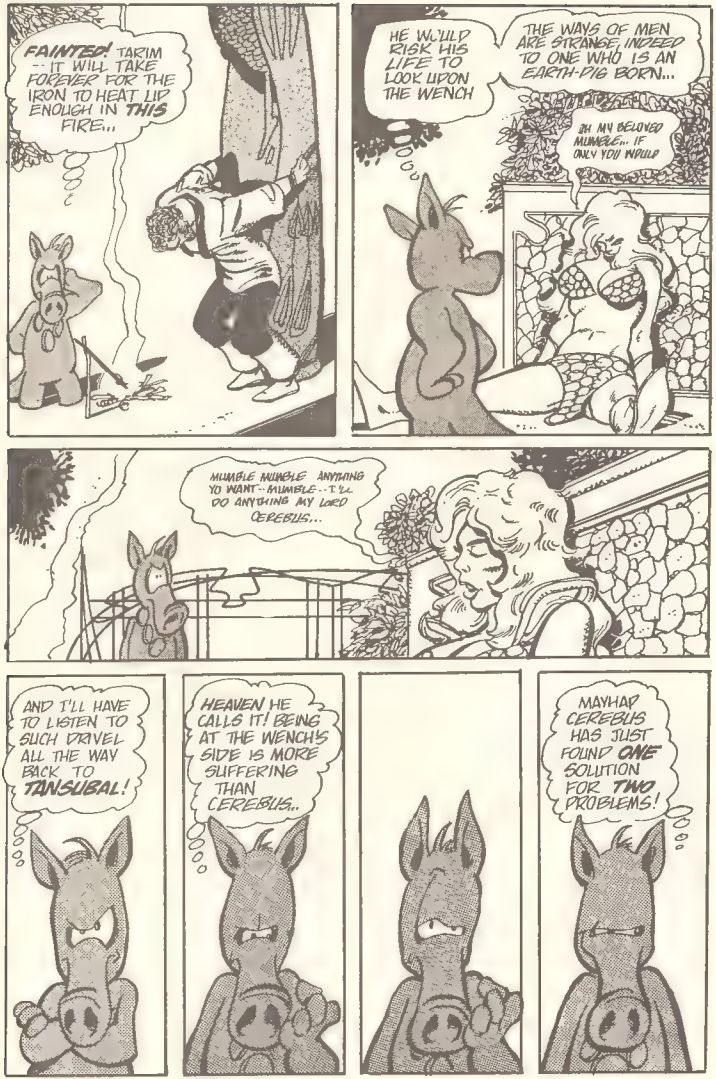

HER FEATURES ARE TOO PERFECT FOR A MORTAL SUCH AS I...


AH-- SOPHIA, SOPHIA! HOW COULD YOU SPURN ME SO? WHAT IS IT WITHIN YOUR... YOUR...

SNIFF? SNIFF?

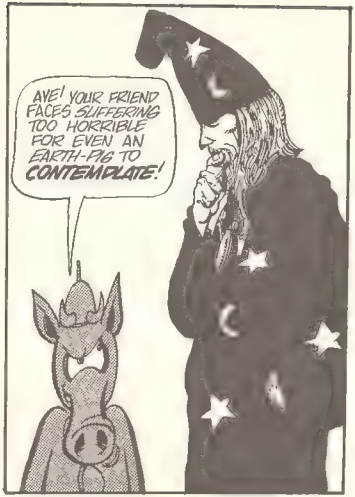
SAY-- WHY ARE YOU HEATING UP THAT IRON RAIL?
GUESS.

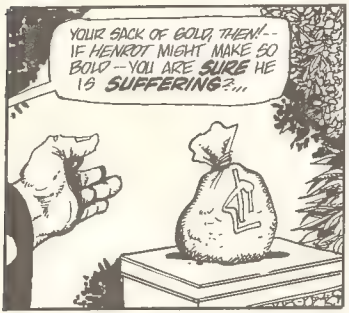

OH.


FAINTED! TARIM -- IT WILL TAKE FOREVER FOR THE IRON TO HEAT UP ENOUGH IN THIS FIRE...
HE WOULD RISK HIS LIFE TO LOOK UPON THE WENCH
THE WAYS OF MEN ARE STRANGE INDEED TO ONE WHO IS AN EARTH-PIG BORN...
AH MY BELOVED MUMBLE... IF ONLY YOU WOULD
MUMBLE MUMBLE ANYTHING YO WANT-- MUMBLE.. I'LL DO ANYTHING MY LORD CEREBUS...
AND I'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO SUCH DRIVEL ALL THE WAY BACK TO TANSUBAL!
HEAVEN HE CALLS IT! BEING AT THE WENCH'S SIDE IS MORE SUFFERING THAN CEREBUS..
MAYHAP CEREBUS HAS JUST FOUND ONE SOLUTION FOR TWO PROBLEMS!

EPILOGUE
SO IT IS THAT THE NEXT DAY FINDS HENROT ENJOYING THE NOON SUN AND ALTERING THE ATOMIC STRUCTURE OF THE OCCASIONAL INSECT...
THERE IS SOMETHING AMISS -- SOMETHING HE HAS TROUBLE PUTTING A WIZARDLY FINGER ON...
A SMALL SOUND ATTRACTS HIS ATTENTION....
EH? THE EARTH-PIG ...BUT NO SOPHIA? CAN IT BE THAT....NO -- THE INDICATORS WERE TOO STRONG...
IF HE AGREED TO BRING SUFFERING TO FERAS HE HAS DONE SO!
000000.

GOOD MORROW TO YOU, AARDVARK! YOU HAVE---EH-- DONE AS I ASKED?


AYE! YOUR FRIEND FACES SUFFERING TOO HORRIBLE FOR EVEN AN EARTH-PIG TO CONTEMPLATE!


YOUR SACK OF GOLD, THEN!-- IF HENROT MIGHT MAKE SO BOLD--YOU ARE SURE HE IS SUFFERING?...

SUFFICE TO SAY, CEREBUS WOULD NOT WANT TO BE IN FERAS' PLACE! NOW, IF YOU...

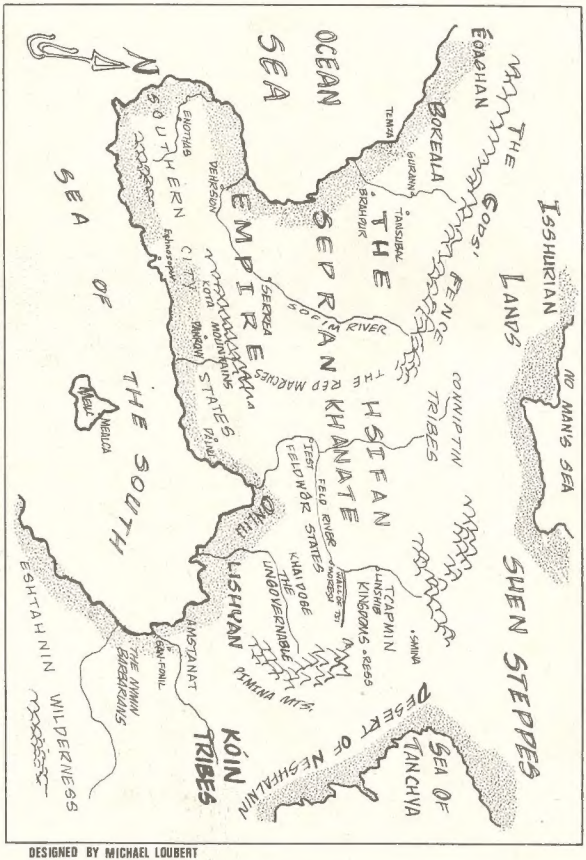
BUT-- MY DAUGHTER! WHERE IS RED SOPHIA?

I TOLD HER SHE WOULD MAKE CEREBUS VERY HAPPY IF SHE MARRIED FERAS
SHE DID THAT?...
...FOR YOU?
RED SOPHIA WILL DO ANYTHING FOR CEREBUS!
BUT... WHO... WHAT...
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE MARRIAGE OF YOUR DAUGHTER AND FERAS WILL LAST MANY YEARS...
...AND IF YOU CAN THINK OF GREATER SUFFERING THAN THAT, YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY THEM ON YOUR NEW SON-IN-LAW, HENROT...
FIN

CEREBUS
bi-weekly
December 30, 1988

Map
of the
Aardvarkian Age

The map of Cerebus' world was designed by Michael Loubert (Deni's brother) who created all the place names as well. It appeared in Cerebus No. 3 through No. 10.



DESIGNED BY MICHAEL LOUBERT

CEREBUS
bi-weekly

December 30, 1988

This is the original letters page to Cerebus No. 3

AARDVARK COMMENT

c/o AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, KITCHENER, ONT. N2H1C5

Dear Aardvarks:

Your first production comic book from Aardvark-Vanaheim was true-Canadian wondabar work. I congratulate you on your efforts and I will follow Aardvark Vanaheim on everything. Good luck for super success.

When I first opened the envelope and took out the copy, my first impression was TERRIFIC, a CANADIAN comic book, just what this country needs. It's great to read something Canadian that's not about Levesque and his Independance Indigestion. I've heard enough about that to kill a herd of cattle.

Now onto the mag itself. The wraparound cover was simple, but sassy. The only complaint was no mention of the Canadian content.

The story and artwork of Dave Sim was nothing short of spectacular. The mixture of funny animal and sword and sorcery concepts led to an enjoyable book.

The format of the book is disputable. At the current size, I do not believe the book would succeed on the newsstand. It would be better and more to my liking to have black and white paper covers and 40 pages saving the wraparound glossy colour covers for special issues. All in all you have a good magazine on your hands and I'll be along all the way, so tell me if Cerebus and Aardvark Vanaheim are to continue.

Kenny Willis Jr.,
726 Cooper Street,
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

They certainly are! It is our belief that the quality of Cerebus should speak for itself. Canadians can take heart that their country is capable of producing a solid competitive product. At the moment, however, A-V PRESS has only indistinct plans for producing comic books exclusively for Canadian markets.

Dear Dave:

Many thanks for the CEREBUS. I enjoyed it very much and think you have a real winner. Once again you have displayed your stylistic versatility in the Smith vein.

The story was very funny — in the same sort of vein as HOWARD THE DUCK but much better. An aardvark is also a very visually interesting character. I think you're making a mistake if you confine Cerebus to sword and sorcery alone.

The advantage of funny animal characters is their flexibility.

They can fit into any format. My suggestion for a Cerebus story might be a space opera kind of thing a la Flash Gordon/Star Wars.

I really think Cerebus is your best work yet and should be seen by the powers at Marvel and DC.

Terry Hamilton,
PO Box 48385,
Bentall Stn. Vancouver

Terry Hamilton is the very successful publisher of the STAMPART comic books being produced in Vancouver, including FOG CITY COMICS, a highly sophisticated funny animal book.

Dear Dave & Deni:

Cerebus No. 1 was excellent. The story left a little to be desired, but the art was well above Dave's usual level of excellence. Try and develop Cerebus' "personality" more.

His gruff attitude doesn't seem to fit an earth pig exactly. All in all it was very enjoyable and I look forward to No. 2.

Russ A. Stamets,
16430 Kimbark,
South Holland Ill.,
60473

Efforts are being made to establish more clearly the "personality" that reader Stamets refers to. Aardvark fans can look forward to a clearer idea of the Earth Pig's manners and motivations in future issues. We also hope that this issue's story will give readers some clues as to the untamed Earth Pig's motivations.

Dear Deni:

Cerebus No. 1 arrived this morning and I've got to admit that I've had fun reading and looking through it. You had some nice art there. Dave sure knows how to spot his blacks. The pages seemed pretty well balanced. Fairly good layout, too.

The only thing that bothered me was Dave's rendering of the people. He seemed a little out of practice with the human form, but what the hey. The people in the rear of the book were looking better than in the beginning of the thing (and I'm gonna have egg on my face if you tell me that Dave started drawing the last page first).

The writing was nicely handled. Make Cerebus a man and you'd have a pretty fair barbarian story. But I like the idea of the main character being a 'vark. He may be a cute lookin' furry beast but he's one bad dude.

Best of luck with everything, and I hope you get filthy rich.

John Ellis Sech,
RT. 4 Box 4-23,
Canters Cave Twp. Rd. 223,
Jackson, Ohio 45640

Long time Canadian comics fans will recall John Sech's scripting on Vince Marchesano's THE DARK NINJA in the short-lived ORB magazine. Short time Canadian comics fans won't know him from Adam, I guess.

Dear Dave and Deni:

I've just read issues 1 & 2 of **Cerebus the Aardvark** and I want more. I am a rabid Conan the Cimmerian fan. I've collected everything on him and my book and comic book collections are complete. Spoofs are a joy. Starting now I'm collecting Cerebus.

Now, how do I go about it? Where in Toronto will it be consistently on sale?

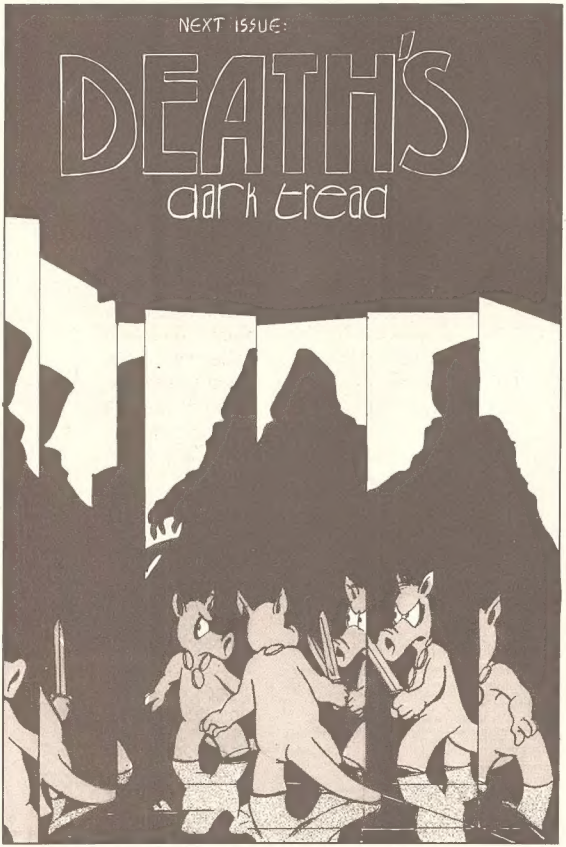
I sure hope it catches on and you sell so many that it continues for years and years. Have faith, by Crom.

Karen Leigh,
23 Braywin Drive,
Weston, Ontario M9P 2N9

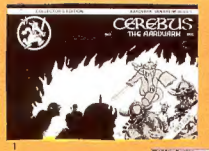
CEREBUS
bi-weekly
December 30, 1988

INSIDE BACK COVER
of
Cerebus No. 3
(1978)

This preview page appeared as the Inside Back Cover of Cerebus No. 3



the original back cover to CEREBUS number three



1

2

3

1. CEREBUS No. 1 — First issue of Cerebus the Aardvark featuring his search for the Flame Jewel. Only $1.25
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